

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5623

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP GR

SUBJ: WASHINGTON VISIT OF ZOLOTAS AND PAPALIGOURAS

REF ATHENS 6288

FOR DEPUTY ASST. SECY. STABLER

1. AT THEIR REQUEST DCM HAD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH COORDINATION MINISTER XENOPHON ZOLOTAS AND GOVERNOR OF BANK OF GREECE PANAYOTIS PAPALIGOURAS ABOUT THEIR WASHINGTON VISIT SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4 FOR THE BANK AND FUND MEETING. BOTH WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING THEIR STAY AND I BELIEVE THAT THEIR VISIT PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH TWO UNUSUALLY INFLUENTIAL, FRIENDLY AND RESPECTED GREEK LEADERS. THE RECEPTION THAT ZOLOTAS AND PAPALIGOURAS RECEIVE IN WASHINGTON AND THE PERSONAL CONTACTS THEY ARE ABLE TO ESTABLISH, ESPECIALLY IN THE DEPT., CAN BE ENORMOUSLY HELPFUL TO US-GREEK RELATIONS BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

2. ZOLOTAS AND PAPALIGOURAS HAVE BEEN KEY FIGURES ON THE GREEK POLITICO-ECONOMIC SCENE FOR THE PAST THIRTY YEARS. PAPALIGOURAS WAS TWICE MINISTER OF COORDINATION (UNDER PAPAGOS AND KARAMANLIS) AND ZOLOTAS WAS GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL (I.E., CENTRAL) BANK OF GREECE FOR OVER TEN YEARS. BOTH ARE WELL-KNOWN IN THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FIELD, CONFIDENTIAL

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SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH AND ARE PREPARED TO SPEAK CANDIDLY

NOT ONLY ON THE GREEK ECONOMIC SITUATION BUT ON U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS, CYPRUS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, SHOULD DEPT. OFFICERS WISH TO DISCUSS THESE SUBJECTS WITH THEM. BOTH ARE POLITICAL MODERATES AND EXTREMELY FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. DESPITE DISAGREEMENTS WITH RECENT U.S. POLICY AS THEY PERCEIVE IT. DURING THE PERIOD OF GREEK MILITARY GOVERNMENT ZOLOTAS LIVED MAINLY IN SWITZERLAND AND PAPALIGOURAS RETIRED TO HIS FARM IN CORINTH. ZOLOTAS IS AN EXTREMELY VIGOROUS MAN OF SEVENTY (HE LOOKS TEN YEARS YOUNGER) AND PAPALIGOURAS, AT FIFTY-SIX, HAS THE SAME WIRY INTENSITY THAT HE HAD WHEN HE BECAME GREECE'S YOUNGEST COORDINATION MINISTER AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-SIX.

3. I STRONGLY URGE THAT A SPECIAL EFFORT BE MADE TO MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PRESENCE FOR SERIOUS, IF INFORMAL TALKS. I BELIEVE THAT BOB INGERSOLL WOULD FIND THEM BOTH INTERESTING AND CONGENIAL AND HOPE THAT HE CAN FIND TIME IN HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TO RECEIVE THEM. ART HARTMAN, TOM ENDERS AND YOURSELF WILL ALL, I THINK, FIND SESSIONS WITH THEM REWARDING. LUNCH OR DINNER, IF YOUR AND THEIR SCHEDULES PERMIT, WOULD BE BOTH INTERESTING AND PLEASANT SINCE THEY ARE DELIGHTFUL COMPANY. STEARNS MENTIONED CHUCK COOPER AT TREASURY TO THEM AND CHUCK'S INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAM WOULD BE VERY WORTHWHILE. ZOLOTAS KNOWS ARTHUR BURNS WELL AND WILL PROBABLY BE SEEING HIM IN THE COURSE OF THIS VISIT, BUT YOU WILL DOUBTLESS THINK OF OTHERS. ZOLOTAS AND PAPALIGOURAS, INCIDENTALLY, ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF CARAMANLIS AND HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON HIM.

4. ACCORDING TO ZOLOTAS, ECONOMIC MINISTER CARANICAS AT THE GREEK EMBASSY IS COORDINATING THEIR PROGRAM. IN HIS ABSENCE AMB. ALEXANDRAKIS WILL ALSO BE FAMILIAR WITH THEIR SCHEDULE. THEY WILL BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY EVENING, SEPT 28, AND DEPARTING FRIDAY AFTERNOON, OCT 4. KUBISCH

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